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The Allen and Joan Bildner  
Center for the Study of Jewish Life  
Rutgers University  
12 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901



**The Allen and Joan Bildner  
Center for the Study  
of Jewish Life**  
Rutgers University  
12 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Phone: 732-932-2033  
Email: [csjl@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:csjl@rci.rutgers.edu)  
Website: <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

**RUTGERS**  
THE STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW JERSEY

**The Allen and Joan Bildner  
Center for the Study of Jewish Life**  
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
with  
**The Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for  
Russian and East European Jewry**  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

# Beyond Eastern Europe

**Jewish Cultures in Israel  
and the United States**  
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**March 18-20, 2007**  
at Rutgers University



Support for the conference has been provided by the  
Posen Foundation and the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences

## PROGRAM OF EVENTS

### Sunday, March 18

Noon Registration/Lunch

1:00 PM **GREETINGS**  
**Ziva Galili**, Acting Executive Dean,  
School of Arts and Sciences,  
Rutgers University  
**Yael Zerubavel**, Director, Bildner Center,  
Rutgers University  
**Israel Bartal**, Dean of Humanities,  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

1:15–1:45 PM **OPENING LECTURE**  
**Nancy Sinkoff**, Rutgers University  
The Chickpea and the Jewish Question:  
On the Tenacity of Ashkenazic Jewish Culture

1:45–3:10 PM **Session 1:**  
**HOMELANDS AND SYMBOLIC LANDSCAPES**  
Chair: **Ann Fabian**, Dean of Humanities, SAS,  
Rutgers University  
**Israel Bartal**, Hebrew University  
Farming the Land in Three Continents:  
Bilu, Am Oylom, and Yefe-Nahar  
**Yael Zerubavel**, Rutgers University  
Europe, the Desert, and the Yishuv:  
Mental Geographies and Space Metaphors

3:10 PM Break

3:30–4:55 PM **Session 2:**  
**JEWISH EASTERN EUROPE ON DISPLAY**  
Chair: **Joanna Regulska**, Director of International  
Programs, Rutgers University  
**Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett**,  
New York University  
The Museum of the History of Polish Jews  
**Jeffrey Shandler**, Rutgers University  
The Shtetl Subjunctive: Yaffa Eliach's  
Living History Museum

5:00–6:15 PM **Session 3:**  
**MODERN JEWISH LITERARY IMAGINATION**  
Chair: **Barry Qualls**, Vice President Undergraduate  
Education – Interim, Rutgers University  
**Olga Litvak**, Princeton University  
Sholem Aleichem and the Russian Origins of  
Modern Jewish Literature

6:15 PM Dinner  
8:00 PM **EVENING PROGRAM**  
**The Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Lecture**  
**Russian Roots in Israeli Soil:  
From the Dnieper to the Jordan**  
**Anita Shapira**, Tel Aviv University  
and Columbia University  
9:30 PM Shuttle to University Inn

### Monday, March 19

8:15 AM Breakfast  
9:00–10:25 AM **Session 4:**  
**TRANSNATIONAL PHILANTHROPY**  
Chair: **Alexander M. Semyonov**, Smolny College  
and St. Petersburg State University  
Discussant: **Daniel Soyer**, Fordham University  
**Jonathan Dekel-Chen**, Hebrew University  
Political and Ideological Currents of Organized  
Philanthropy: Europe, the Americas, and the Yishuv,  
1880s-1948  
**Rebecca Kobrin**, Columbia University  
Empire of Charity: American Jewry, Polish Jewry,  
and the Politics of Philanthropy

10:30–11:55 AM **Session 5:**  
**MIGRATIONS OF JEWISH RADICALISM**  
Chair: **Uri Eisenzweig**, Rutgers University  
Discussant: **Elissa Bemporad**,  
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research  
**Tony Michels**, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
American Yiddish Socialists and the Rise of  
Transatlantic Jewish Politics, 1880s-1920s  
**Gennady Estraiikh**, New York University  
Between Moscow, Warsaw, and Jerusalem:  
American Yiddish Communists in the 1960s  
and 1970s

Noon Lunch  
1:00–2:25 PM **Session 6:**  
**THE LANGUAGES OF CONTEMPORARY HASIDIM**  
Chair: **Jenny Mandelbaum**, Rutgers University  
Discussant: **Jonathan Boyarin**,  
University of Kansas

# Beyond Eastern Europe

Jewish Cultures in Israel and the United States

**MARCH 18-20, 2007**

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

(FOR FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Country, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional Affiliation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check relevant boxes below (no fee for attending conference):

**I plan to attend the conference on the following days:**

Sunday       Monday       Tuesday

**Meals** (Kosher dietary laws observed)       Vegetarian

Sunday       Lunch \$10       Dinner \$18

Monday       Breakfast (complimentary)

Lunch \$10       Dinner \$18

Tuesday       Breakfast (complimentary)

Lunch \$10

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (check payable to Rutgers University)

**Registration must be received by March 5, 2007.**

Mail completed registration form and payment to:

**Jodi Marcou**

**The Bildner Center, Rutgers University**

**12 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901**

Phone: 732/932-2033 • Fax: 732/932-3052

Email: csjl@rci.rutgers.edu

Website: <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>

## TUESDAY, MARCH 20

8:15 AM      Breakfast

9:00–10:45 AM      **Session 9:  
PERFORMING JEWISH IDENTITIES**

Chair: **Alyssa Quint**, *Princeton University*

**Leslie Fishbein**, *Rutgers University*  
Cultural Loss and the Crafting of New Identity  
in American Jewish Immigrant and Refugee  
Women's Memoirs

**Freddi Rokem**, *Tel Aviv University*  
Theater and Exile: The Geshen Theater  
and Its Traditions

**Olga Gershenson**,  
*University of Massachusetts–Amherst*  
Zionist Nostalgia: Russian Immigrants Screen  
Israeli History

10:45 AM      Break

11:00 AM–12:40 PM      **Session 10:  
JOURNEYS: PERSONAL AND LEGENDARY**

Chair: **Michael Levine**, *Rutgers University*

**Galit Hasan-Rokem**, *Hebrew University*  
The Wandering Jew: The Route out of  
Eastern Europe?

**Barbara Harshav**, *Yale University*  
Translating from Jewish Languages

**Michal Govrin**, *Author, Jerusalem*  
The Transmitted Melody: A Family Saga  
Across the Twentieth Century

12:45 PM      Lunch

1:30–3:30 PM

**ROUNDTABLE:  
THE MEANINGS OF ASHKENAZ  
IN NEW WORLDS**

Moderator: **Nancy Sinkoff**, *Rutgers University*

**Benjamin Harshav**, *Yale University*

**Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett**, *NYU*

**Ezra Mendelsohn**, *Hebrew University*

**Anita Shapira**, *Tel Aviv University*

**Michael Stanislawski**, *Columbia University*

2:30–3:55 PM

**Session 7:  
JEWISH CITYSCAPES**

Chair: **Gerald Pirog**, *Rutgers University*

Discussant: **Suzanne Wasserman**,  
*Graduate Center, CUNY*

**Anat Helman**, *Hebrew University*  
Odessa's Wide Boulevard or the Shtetl's Narrow  
Alley? The East European Facets of the First  
Hebrew City

**Anna Shternshis**, *University of Toronto*  
Between the Red and Yellow Stars: Ethnic and  
Religious Identity of Soviet World War II Veterans  
in New York and Berlin

3:55 PM

Break

4:15–5:40 PM

**Session 8:  
NEW WORLDS FOR EASTERN  
EUROPEAN POLITICS**

Chair: **Myron Aronoff**, *Rutgers University*

Discussant: **Benjamin Nathans**,  
*University of Pennsylvania*

**Ela Bauer**, *University of Haifa*  
Polish Roots of Israeli Democracy

**James Loeffler**, *Columbia University  
and University of Virginia*  
Approaching the Jewish Atlantic:  
The East European Legacy in American  
Jewish Political Thought

5:45 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM

Shuttle to Douglass College Center  
for evening program

7:30 PM

**EVENING PROGRAM**

**Abram Matlofsky Memorial Program  
Funded by the Karma Foundation**

**Back to the Old World: Jewish Filmmakers'  
Journeys to Eastern Europe**

Moderator: **Jeffrey Shandler**, *Rutgers University*

Filmmakers: **Marian Marzynski** (*Shtetl*)

**Pearl Gluck** (*Divan*)

9:30 PM

Shuttle to University Inn

## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### CONFERENCE LOCATION

**Sunday, March 18 and Monday evening, March 19**  
**Trayes Hall, Douglass College Center, Rutgers University**  
100 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: 732/932-9372

**Monday, March 19 (day only) and Tuesday, March 20**  
**University Inn and Conference Center at Rutgers**  
178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8556  
Phone: 732/932-9144 • Website: [www.univinn.rutgers.edu](http://www.univinn.rutgers.edu)

### ACCOMMODATIONS (for conference presenters)

University Inn and Conference Center at Rutgers (see above)

### TRAVEL

**AIR:** The closest airport is Newark International Airport in Newark, New Jersey. The University Inn is approximately 40 minutes from the airport. For transportation to and from Newark Airport, contact State Shuttle at 1-800-427-3207. Advance reservation is required. Ask for the Rutgers rate. NJ Transit trains also run from the airport to the New Brunswick train station.

**TRAIN:** Within New Jersey and from Penn Station, New York, take New Jersey Transit ([njtransit.com](http://njtransit.com)) to the New Brunswick train station. For travel from other areas take Amtrak ([Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com)) to the Trenton train station (from the South) or Penn Station, New York (from the North). You will be able to switch to a New Jersey Transit train to the New Brunswick station.

On Sunday, March 18, there will be a Rutgers shuttle available at the New Brunswick station between 11:10 am and 12:45 pm for travel to the conference. Taxis are also available from the station for the ten-minute ride to the conference.

**DRIVING:** The reconstruction of Rt. 18 between Rt. 27 and Rt. 1 is likely to affect travelers to the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus. Directions to the Douglass College Center and the University Inn and parking information are available at <http://jewishstudies.rutgers.edu>.

**PARKING:** Permits, which are required at the University Inn, will be available at the registration desk.

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**Yael Zerubavel**

**Nancy Sinkoff**

**Jeffrey Shandler**

**Israel Bartal**

**Jonathan Dekel-Chen**